

Airedale Beekeepers Association Questionnaire

November 2016

24 people completed the questionnaire in total, about 25% of the membership.

Why did you decide to become a member of ABKA?

22 people wanted the support network of an association

15 joined because of Insurance

20 wanted to be kept in touch with local bee related matters

3 people said training and education

One person joined to replace other hobbies.

Which of the following do you find useful (1 = not at all and 10= very much)

Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Average
Insurance	2	1	1				1	5	2	11	8.2
News			1		2		3	6	2	9	8.2
Technical Info/support								6	4	12	9.3
Use of equipment	1				2	2	2	2	1	13	8.3
Website		1			2	1	1	9	2	7	8.0
Social activities			2		3	4	4	2	2	6	7.3
Winter talks	1				2		5	1	2	10	8.2

Communication

We asked how people perceived the amount of communication they received. They replied:

Too little	1
About right	21
Too much	1

We also asked how we could improve communication with members and received the following comments:

Perhaps more meetings? More training events

Publish committee meeting minutes

BBKA needs a better twitter feed for telling people about bee news.

MORE MEETINGS AND TALKS

Remind members not to press "Reply All" (NB. 'Too much' info person)

Involvement

We asked people what deters them from getting more involved. You said:

Lack of time	9
Worried about lack of skill or expertise	2
Already as involved as I would like to be	14

One other answer:

I'M NOT AWARE OF ACTIVITIES I can participate in. I need emails from Gill.

Suggestions for talks

We said "Did you know that any member of ABKA can arrange a meeting or talk for the Association. Is there something that you would like to propose or introduce or organise for the association?". You replied

More networking occasions to help beginners become involved

How about something like a members night when several members present a short topic each. Or how about a talk on useful forage plants and wild flowers/trees – seasons and pollen colours etc. I think there are some myths out there; it's a topic not well covered in literature I have read.

The Spring session on swarm control was excellent. It was also nice to see everyone again after the start of the season. A meeting of some sort in the middle of the summer to catch up would be really good. Also, a re-run of the swarm control annually.

First and second year beekeepers might like more help on what others have done wrong. Support was great to get started but help to overcome early inexperience wasn't always as easy to get.

Bees for Development – interested in supporting/learning more about beekeeping around the world particularly developing countries. Think they offer someone for talks.

<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/>

General comments and suggestions

We said "We are interested in your views. Is there anything else you can tell us, which will help make ABKA more useful to you as a beekeeper?". Answers were:

Doing a great job, much appreciated.

I'd like to go with an experienced beekeeper to collect a couple of swarms – for experience, not to keep the swarms.

I would like to introduce information about bees into classrooms, if possible, loans of educational equipment & links to possible sources of information would be useful to myself.

Could we get some foundation making equipment?

Good to introduce some improvers sessions.

Would like the national leadership to represent concerns of members about neonics and intensive agriculture. They seem determined not to listen to widespread worries.

Could there be a list of phone numbers/email addresses of members on the website of members who agree to their names being on it?